

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Rulemaking to protect bighorn sheep from disease transmission.
2. Name of applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: USPS-PO Box 43141, Olympia, Washington 98504-3200

Contact: Joel Sisolak (360) 902-2695

4. Date checklist prepared: November 9, 2022

5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

There will be a public hearing and decision on the WDFW proposal on December 1, 2022 following a public comment period and hearing.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No future additions or expansion.

Future activities associated with this proposal will include outreach and education to inform affected individuals and groups about the proposed rule following its enactment as well as enforcement to further encourage compliance with the rule.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

The WDFW proposal is supported by scientific literature and experimental evidence that domestic sheep or goats should not concurrently occupy areas where conservation of wild sheep is a clearly stated management goal.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

The draft rule will be reviewed for enactment by the Director of WDFW following a public comment period and hearing.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

WDFW proposes to enact a new rule to protect bighorn sheep from disease transmission from domestic sheep and goats by restricting visitors from bringing these domestic animals, e.g.,

pack goats, onto wildlife area units where bighorn sheep may be present. If adopted, these restrictions would be implemented with a combination of education, signage, and enforcement following the rule's enactment.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The proposed rule would apply to select wildlife area units: (a) Asotin Creek Wildlife Area: Asotin Creek, Weatherly, and George Creek Units; (b) Chelan Wildlife Area: Beebe Springs, Chelan Butte, Swakane, and Entiat Units; (c) Chief Joseph Wildlife Area: Chief Joseph, 4-O Ranch, Grouse Flats, and Shumaker Units; (d) Colockum Wildlife Area: Colockum Unit; (e) Columbia Basin Wildlife Area: Lower Crab Creek and Quincy Lakes Units; (f) L.T. Murray Wildlife Area: Quilomene, L.T. Murray, and Whiskey Dick Units; (g) Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Cowiche, Oak Creek, and Rock Creek Units; (h) Scotch Creek Wildlife Area: Chesaw, Ellemehan, Scotch Creek, Charles and Mary Eder, Similkameen-Chopaka, and Tunk Valley Units; (i) Sinlahekin Wildlife Area: Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island, and Carter Mountain Units; (j) Wells Wildlife Area: Indian Dan Canyon Unit; (k) Wenas Wildlife Area: Wenas Unit; (l) W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area: W.T. Wooten Unit.

Affected counties include Asotin, Chelan, Kittitas, Grant, Yakima, Okanagan, and Columbia Counties. A map of the areas affected by the proposal is attached.

B. Environmental Elements [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Earth [\[help\]](#)

a. General description of the site:

WDFW proposes a rule that would restrict visitor use of the wildlife area units specified above. It would not cause any physical impact.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

2. Air [\[help\]](#)

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

none

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

no

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

3. Water [\[help\]](#)

- a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

no

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

no

b. Ground Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

no

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

no

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

4. Plants [\[help\]](#)

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- ___deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- ___evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- ___shrubs
- ___grass
- ___pasture
- ___crop or grain
- ___ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- ___ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- ___water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ___other types of vegetation

The 12 WLAs that would be affected by the proposed rule include diverse vegetation. The proposed action would not impact vegetation.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

. The proposal would have no negative impacts on threatened or endangered plant species.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

5. **Animals** [\[help\]](#)

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

Many birds, fish and mammals, including bighorn sheep, have been observed on or near the areas affected by this proposal. This proposal is intended to protect the health of big horn sheep populations and is not anticipated to have any negative effects on other animal species.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The Rocky Mountain bighorn (*O. c. canadensis*) is identified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) under the State Wildlife Action Plan. SGCN-classified species include both those with and without legal protection status under the Federal or State Endangered Species programs, as well as game species with low populations.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The WDFW proposal is intended to preserve bighorn sheep populations.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

6. *Energy and Natural Resources* [\[help\]](#)

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

none

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?
If so, generally describe.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?
List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

7. *Environmental Health* [\[help\]](#)

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal?
If so, describe.

No

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)?
Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

8. Land and Shoreline Use [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

The proposal will not affect land uses on nearby or adjacent properties.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

c. Describe any structures on the site.
Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
no

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

WDFW proposal would support the conservation purpose of the affected lands.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

10. Aesthetics [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

11. Light and Glare [\[help\]](#)

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

12. Recreation [\[help\]](#)

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Recreation activities on and adjacent to the areas affected by the proposal include hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, motorized recreation, camping, nature viewing, and other popular opportunities. The great majority of these activities will not be affected by this proposal.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

The WDFW proposal would displace from specified areas recreational uses that require the use of domestic sheep or goats, including use of these animals to support hiking or packing.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

WDFW will continue to allow the use of domestic animals to support hiking and packing where their presence poses no threat to the health of habitat or wildlife, particularly bighorn sheep.

13. Historic and cultural preservation [\[help\]](#)

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers ? If so, specifically describe.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

are no anticipated negative impacts on cultural and historic resources.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

14. Transportation [\[help\]](#)

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Not related to this proposal.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

Not related to this proposal.

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

no

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

no

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Not relevant to the WDFW proposal.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Not relevant to proposal.

15. Public Services [\[help\]](#)

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Not relevant to this proposal

16. Utilities [\[help\]](#)

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other _____

Not relevant to this proposal

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Not relevant to this proposal.

C. Signature [\[HELP\]](#)

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: *Joel Sisolak*

Name of signee Joel Sisolak

Position and Agency/Organization: Lands Planning and Recreation Manager

Date Submitted: November 10, 2022

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[HELP\]](#)

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

No impact

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposal would protect bighorn sheep from exposure to disease transmissible from domestic goats and sheep.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Rule promulgation, outreach and education about the rule, enforcement

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Not applicable

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

WDFW proposal would restrict access of visitors with domestic sheep or goats from access to specified wildlife area units.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposal will reduce use of specified lands by hunters and other visitors using domestic sheep or goats as pack animals.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Not relevant to WDFW proposal.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

No likely impact.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

No likely conflict.